Meeting over Mullaperiyar Dam between Kerala and Tamil Nadu

1474. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu to resolve the issue of Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the agreements reached between these two States and the deliberations made in the Meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) convened an inter-State meeting of the Chief Minister of States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Mullaperiyar dam issue on 29.11.2006 at New Delhi. The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers, Ministers (WR/PW) of the two States as well as Senior Officers of the Ministry of Water Resources, Central Water Commission and States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(c) The States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala reiterated their respective stand in meeting. They have also agreed to discuss the issue further in a meeting under the auspices of Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) with the Ministers (WR/PW) from the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Consensus on ground water ownership and pricing

1475. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for consensus on ground water ownership and pricing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to impose cess on ground water resources and to review the laws governing ownership of ground water on private lands;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the regions which are under over-exploitation of ground water, category-wise, State-wise as on today; and

(f) the steps taken to augment the ground water potential in areas including Islands as on today, category-wise, and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the subject matter was discussed in the 12th National Symposium on focal theme "Ground Water Governance: Ownership of Ground Water and its Pricing" held on 14th and 15th November, 2006 in New Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per the latest assessment of ground water resources carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the States, out of 5723 replenishable ground water resource assessment units (block/mandal/ taluka), 839 assessment units are 'over-exploited' where stage of ground water development is more than 100% and significant decline in long term trend of water level has been observed in either pre-monsoon period or post-monsoon period or both. Another 226 units are 'critical' where ground water development is more than 90% and upto 100% and significant decline is observed in long term trend of water level in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods. State-wise number of units falling under 'Over-exploited' and 'Critical' categories is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1464 Part (a)].

(f) Steps taken by the Government to augment the ground water potential in the country are as follows:

* Based on various studies carried out to demarcate the areas where decline of ground water level is on continuous basis and identify areas feasible for recharge, a concept report titled 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' has been prepared which has identified a total of 4.5 lakh sq.km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water. It has been estimated that annually about 36 bcm of surplus monsoon runoff can be

recharged to augment ground water. The document has been circulated to all the States/UTs.

* CGWB has circulated Manual/Guide on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

* CGWB has implemented 165 demonstrative recharge projects in various States under the Central sector scheme on 'Study of recharge to ground water' during the IXth Plan.

* Under the ongoing scheme of Ground Water Surveys, Exploration and Investigation, 13 areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been identified for implementation of artificial recharge and rain water harvesting at a total cost of Rs. 12 crores during the year 2006-07. Implementation has begun in 6 identified areas of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

* CGWB provides technical guidance on rain water harvesting to various agencies including State Government agencies, educational institutions, Resident Welfare Associations, Group Housing Societies, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

* To create awareness among the public on rain water harvesting mass awareness programmes are regularly organized by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA). Further, to generate resource persons as a measure of capacity building, training programme are conducted in varioius parts of the country.

* CGWA has directed the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to take all measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ promote rain water harvesting in all the Over-exploited areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.

* Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water to the States/Union Territories in 2005. Besides regulation of ground water development, the Bill has a separate chapter on rain water harvesting for Ground Water Recharge.

* Government has constituted Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council under the Union Minister of Water Resources, which has representation from various Ministries concerned with rain water harvesting like Ministry of Rural Development, Urban Development, Agriculture, Environment and Forests, States/UTs, financial institutions, Industries/Public Undertakings and NGOs.

* Ministry of Water Resources has requested other Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

* To promote roof top rain water harvesting in rural areas, Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a demonstrative scheme through Non-Government Organizations under which funding is being provided for construction of roof top rain water harvesting structures for collection of rain water for drinking and us in two toilets constructed for girls in Girl Schools in the States. So far in the first installment (75% of the total cost), of total of Rs. 281.25 lakh have been provided to 23 Non-Government Organizations in 15 States.

* Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation (Delhi Division) has amended Building Bye-laws 1983 by making it mandatory that all new buildings that are erected on plots of 100 sq.m. and above in Delhi provided for water harvesting through storing rain water run off to recharge under ground water aquifers. Similarly, State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Municipal Corporation of Jaipur, Rajasthan and Municipal Corporation of Ludhiana and Improvement Trust, Jalandhar, Punjab have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in urban area.

Establishment of West Coast Regional Centre of National Institute of Hydrology in Kerala

1476. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: